

REMARKS

Claims 19, 21-24, 26-29 and 31-33 remain pending in the application.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the IDSs filed on January 10, 2008, March 14, 2008, and September 23, 2008.

Claims 19-33 over Tanno and Oehrke

Claims 19, 21-24, 26-29 and 31-33 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over J.P. Patent Publication No. 10307782A to Tanno ("Tanno") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 7,047,300 to Oehrke ("Oehrke"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 19 and 21-23 recite a load balancer module to determine a least RECENTLY used protocol gateway supporting a protocol of a source of a message; and routing the message to a determined least RECENTLY used protocol gateway. Claims 24, 26-29 and 31-33 recite determining a least RECENTLY used protocol gateway supporting protocol of a source of a message; and routing the message to the determined least recently used protocol gateway. The Examiner relied on Tanno's Abstract to disclose such features. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Tanno's Abstract discloses:

The system consists of gateways (2A-2N) through which clients (3A-3N) accesses the main server (1). A gateway management server (4) is provided which stores the load conditions and load factors of each gateway. The usage condition of the gateways are determined using the database. Whenever a client requests a gateway connection for accessing the server, a communication unit (42) in management server directs the client towards the gateway having minimum load.

Tanno discloses **REAL-TIME** monitoring of gateway load conditions and load factors to direct a client request to a gateway having minimum load. However, Tanno fails to teach past usage, i.e., a **least RECENTLY used protocol gateway**, as a basis from which to route a message to a gateway. Tanno fails to disclose **determining a least RECENTLY used protocol gateway**

supporting protocol of a source of a message, much less as a basis to route a message to a determined **least RECENTLY used protocol gateway**, as recited by claims 19, 21-24, 26-29 and 31-33.

Oehrke was relied on to allegedly disclose an authenticator to authenticate that a particular source of a message is an authorized user of a messaging network before a message is routed by a message router. (see Office Action, page 3) Thus, even taking into consideration Oehrke's alleged teaching, Tanno and Oehrke, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest determining a least RECENTLY used protocol gateway supporting protocol of a source of a message, much less as a basis to route a message to a determined **least RECENTLY used protocol gateway**, as recited by claims 19, 21-24, 26-29 and 31-33.

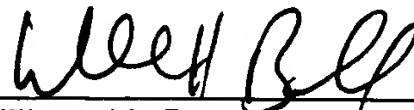
The present invention very importantly provides a **ROUND-ROBIN** load balancing to route a message to a **LEAST RECENTLY USED protocol gateway** supporting the protocol of the client device associated with the message. (See, e.g., the specification at page 34, lines 25-27) The cited art fails to disclose, teach or suggest such load balancing.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 19, 21-24, 26-29 and 31-33 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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